

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 /108 W

-----097423 042240Z /15

R 040745Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3466

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USAFE RAMSTEIN

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 564

USEEC

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB GW

SUBJ: COAL MINERS DEMAND PAY BOOST

REF: DUSSELDORF 449

1. ON MARCH 31, 1978 THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE GERMAN
MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION DECIDED TO TERMINATE
ITS WAGE CONTRACTS IN THE COAL MINING DISTRICTS OF THE
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RUHR, SAAR, AACHEN AND IBHENBUEREN, COVERING 190,000
COAL MINERS EFFECTIVE APRIL 30, 1978. AS OF MAY 1,
THE UNION DEMANDS AN ACROSS THE BOARD BOOST OF 6.5 PERCENT
AND A WORKING TIME REDUCTION FROM 42 TO 40 HOURS PER
WEEK IN CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING PLANTS SUCH AS POWER
PLANTS AND COKERIES.

2. ADLOF SCHMIDT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION, EXPECTS NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN IN THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL. HE CALLED THE DEMANDS BALANCED AND CONSIDERS THE INCREASES NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFICIENCY AND VIABILITY IN THE COAL INDUSTRY AND FOR AN ADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLY. HE DOES NOT THINK THE INCREASE WILL AFFECT ENERGY PRICES.

3. ACCORDING TO SCHMIDT, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE NO STRIKE BUT THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT ENTIRELY BE DISMISSED IF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT IS TERMINATED. ALLUDING TO 27 YEARS OF PARITY CODETERMINATION IN THE COAL INDUSTRY, SCHMIDT NOTED THAT THE BARGAINING PARTNERS KNOW EACH OTHER WELL ENOUGH TO PERMIT THE EXPECTATION OF A SMOOTH BARGAINING PROCESS, WHICH THE UNION EXPECTS TO BE CONCLUDED IN MID-MAY. SCHMIDT SEES HARDLY ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT THE BARGAINING SITUATION IN THE NRW METAL FABRICATING INDUSTRY (SEE REFTTEL) WILL AFFECT MINING NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF GREATLY DIVERGENT CONDITIONS IN THE TWO INDUSTRIES.DUX

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